

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 182384
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 182384

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, KS, US

SUBJECT: ROK ASSURANCES THAT LATEST OFFER ON KIM DONG JO
STILL STANDS

REF: SEOUL 6177

1. ON JULY 18 ROK EMBASSY OFFICER SHIN HANDED TO ACTING
EA/K DIRECTOR BLAKEMORE A TYPED "ORAL STATEMENT" REITERATING
THE ROKG POSITION ON THE QUESTION OF KIM DON8 JO TESTI-
ONY AND CONFIRMING THAT ITS LATEST OFFER MADE TO JAWORSKI
STILL STANDS. THE TEXT OF THE ORAL STATEMENT IS IN PARA
THREE BELOW.

2. WE INTEND TO PASS THE GIST OF THIS STATEMENT TO
CONGRESSMEN HAMILTON AND SPENCE BEFORE THEY EMBARK FOR
KOREA. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT PLAN TO FORMALLY TRANSMIT IT
TO THE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP AT THIS TIME.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 182384

3. BEGIN TEXT:

IT IS REGRETTABLE THAT THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE
KOREAN AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON, D. C. AND MR. JAWORSKI
REGARDING THE POSSIBLE COOPERATION OF FORMER AMBASSADOR
KIM, DONG JO REACHED AN IMPASSE. THE IMPASSE OCCURRED

WHEN MR. JAWORSKI SUSPENDED THE DISCUSSIONS AND CRITICIZED THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA FOR LACK OF COOPERATION IN HIS REPORT TO SPEAKER O'NEILL ON JUNE 19, 1978, WHICH IN TURN BECAME THE BASIS FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES' DECISION TO DENY PL 480 FUNDS FOR KOREA FOR FY '79.

ON THE MATTER OF MR. KIM, DONG JO, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA HELD CONSISTENTLY THE POSITION THAT IT WOULD BE WILLING TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATE COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, AND SPECIFICALLY ARRANGE FOR MR. KIM, DONG JO TO CLARIFY HIS POSITION IN WRITING IF AND WHEN ASKED THROUGH A PROPER CHANNEL BY THE U.S. CONGRESS, EVEN THOUGH IT FELT NOT OBLIGED TO DO SO UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW.

THIS POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA WAS MADE CLEAR IN THE EMBASSY STATEMENT OF JUNE 22, 1978, EVEN AFTER THE HOUSE ACTIONS ON PL 480.

IT WAS THE FEELING OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO MR. JAWORSKI'S ACTION OF JUNE 19 THAT THERE WAS A GOOD CHANCE OF ARRIVING AT A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARTIES CONCERNING THE MODE OF COMMUNICATION WITH MR. KIM, DONG JO.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 182384

THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA HAS NOT WITHDRAWN ITS OFFER OF COOPERATION EVEN THOUGH DEVELOPMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES INVOLVING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES' DECISION CONCERNING PL 480 FUNDS FOR KOREA DID NOT CONTRIBUTE TO FOSTERING AN ATMOSPHERE OF FRIENDLY COOPERATION.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA IS OF THE VIEW THAT THE LONG TERM INTERESTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND THE UNITED STATES IN THE FIELD OF SECURITY AND OTHER VITAL AREAS DEMAND AN EARLY RESOLUTION OF THE CURRENT ISSUES INVOLVING THE CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION AND THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS OUGHT TO DEVOTE THEIR TIME AND ENERGY TO MORE CONSTRUCTIVE, PROFITABLE AND FORWARD-LOOKING UNDERTAKINGS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

END TEXT.

CHRISTOPHER

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